



M. L.

Gc  
973.74  
R34f1  
v.1  
1758068

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 00825 0018



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012

<http://archive.org/details/proceedingsv1300firs>





840

HISTORY  
OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE  
1-st  
FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY VETERAN  
ASSOCIATION,  
OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.,  
V. I.  
WITH  
A ROSTER OF THE ASSOCIATION;  
TO WHICH IS ADDED THE  
ADDRESS OF LT.-COL. HENRY STAPLES,  
AND THE  
POEM BY PRIVATE GEORGE W. PETTES,  
DELIVERED BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION AT THE FIRST  
ANNIVERSARY, MAY, 1870.  
VOL. I.

PRINTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VOTE OF THE ASSOCIATION  
AT THE MEETING, MAY 11, 1870.

840



1758068

F  
8349  
.9034

First light infantry veteran association, *Providence*.

Proceedings ... v. 1-3. [Providence, R. I., 1870-78]

3 v. 20½-22½ cm.

Title varies: Vol. 1. History of the organization of the First light infantry veteran association, of Providence, R. I., with a roster of the association; to which is added the address of Lt.-Col. Henry Staples, and the poem (Corona) by private George W. Pettes, delivered before the association at the first anniversary, May, 1870. Printed in accordance with the vote of the association at the meeting, May 11, 1870.

SHELF CARD

Vol. 2. First light infantry veteran association, of Providence, R. I., with a roster of the association, to which is added the oration of ex-chap-

(Continued on next card)

10-21842 Revised

(r25c2)





1758068

F  
8349  
.9034

First light infantry veteran association, *Providence*.

Proceedings ... v. 1-3. [Providence, R. I., 1870-78,

3 v. 201-221 cm.

Title varies: Vol. 1. History of the organization of the First light infantry veteran association, of Providence, R. I., with a roster of the association; to which is added the address of Lt.-Col. Henry Staples, and the poem (Corona) by private George W. Pettes, delivered before the association at the first anniversary, May, 1870. Printed in accordance with the vote of the association at the meeting, May 11, 1870.

SHELF CARD

Vol. 2. First light infantry veteran association, of Providence, R. I., with a roster of the association, to which is added the oration of ex-chap-

(Continued on next card)

10-21842 Revised

(r25c2)





## FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY VETERAN ASSOCIATION.

---

### I. THE BY-LAWS.

AT a meeting of the First Light Infantry Company, held at the Armory, March 29, 1869, a committee was appointed, at the suggestion of some of the past members, who were fully authorized to make all necessary arrangements to perfect an organization of the past members.

This committee consisted of Colonel W. W. Brown, Major Henry Staples, Colonel Joseph W. Taylor, Captain Samuel H. Thomas, James Snow, Jr., Gen. James Shaw, Jr., and George B. Jastram.

The committee organized by electing Colonel Brown, chairman, and Major Staples, secretary. Various meetings of the committee were held, a splendidly bound book for signatures was obtained, and at a full meeting of the past members held June 3, 1869, the following By-Laws, reported by the sub-committee (Messrs. W. W. Brown, Henry Staples, and James Shaw, Jr.) especially appointed for that purpose, were adopted : —

#### NAME.

This Association shall be known by the name of the FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY VETERAN ASSOCIATION, and shall be organized and officered as a battalion or regiment.



## MEMBERS.

Within the thirty days next following the adoption of these By-Laws, any person in good standing may be eligible to membership, whose name has been upon the books of the FIRST LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANY for five years, or upon the unanimous recommendation of the field officers. After the expiration of thirty days, no person shall be eligible to membership, unless his name has been upon the *active* roll of said company for at least five years.

## MEETINGS.

The annual meeting shall hereafter be held on the first Monday evening in May. Special meetings of the battalion or regiment may be held whenever the field officers of said battalion or regiment shall deem it expedient. Special company meetings may be held whenever the line officers of said company shall deem it expedient, or whenever twenty members of any company shall, in writing, request their commanding officer to call such a meeting. At all meetings the senior officer present shall preside.

## MEETINGS, HOW NOTIFIED.

The notice for each meeting of the battalion or regiment shall be signed by the commanding officer of the battalion or regiment, and by the adjutant. If for a company meeting, it shall be signed by the commanding officer and the clerk of said company, and such notices shall be published in the daily papers of the city, at least three days before said meeting (if possible), and shall specify the business to be transacted.



## OFFICERS, AND HOW ELECTED.

After the first election each company shall on the first Monday evening in May of each year, elect a Captain and four Lieutenants, and a Clerk, who shall act as treasurer. The line officers so elected shall, as soon thereafter as possible, meet and elect a Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, Major, and such staff and other officers as they may deem expedient, and shall determine by lot the rank of officers of the same grade newly elected. The commanding officer of the battalion or regiment shall, on the nomination of the company commander, appoint four sergeants, and four corporals to each company.

## ARMORER.

It shall be the duty of the field officers, as soon after their own election as possible, each year, to appoint an Armorer for the battalion or regiment. The duty of said armorer shall be to receive from, and return to the State all arms and equipments received from them by direction of the commanding officer of the battalion or regiment, and the whole expenses of the same shall be paid from the treasury of the battalion or regiment.

## BILLS, HOW PAID.

All bills against the battalion or regiment shall be audited by the commanding officer and paid by the treasurer. All bills against either company, shall be audited by the commanding officer and paid by the treasurer.

## PAYMENTS.

Each person, upon signing the books of the battalion or



regiment, shall pay to the treasurer an initiation fee of two dollars, which shall be retained by the treasurer of the battalion or regiment as the battalion or regimental fund.

The yearly tax of each member shall be one dollar, which shall be paid to the treasurer of the company to which said member shall belong, to constitute a company fund. Each member will also be assessed for music tax. Instead of the annual payment of one dollar, one payment of ten dollars shall constitute said member a life member exempted from said yearly tax. Said yearly tax shall be payable on the first Monday in May, of each and every year.

#### MEMBERS, HOW ADMITTED.

After the expiration of thirty days from the adoption of these By-Laws, any person wishing to become a member, shall send his name to the commanding officer of the battalion or regiment, accompanied by a certificate from the clerk of the First Light Infantry Company stating that his name has been upon the active roll of said company for at least five years. The field officers shall act upon said application, and upon a vote of a majority of said officers said person may be admitted. Upon being admitted, he must sign the books within thirty days, and shall be assigned by the commanding officer of the battalion or regiment to the company having the largest number of vacancies.

#### MEMBERS, HOW EXPELLED.

Each company, by a vote of at least two thirds of the members present, may expel any member. No field or staff officer can be expelled, unless by a vote of a majority of the members present of each company, but any motion



to expel either officer or member, can be acted upon only at the next meeting after the meeting at which said motion is made, and a notice in the meantime shall be served upon said officer by the adjutant of the battalion or regiment, or upon said member by the clerk of the company to which he belongs.

#### DUTIES OF CLERK.

It shall be the duty of the adjutant of the battalion or regiment to keep a complete roster and a record of all meetings, parades, and business of the battalion or regiment. He shall also act as treasurer of the battalion or regiment, and shall present at each Annual Meeting a biographical sketch of such members as shall have deceased during the year.

It shall be the duty of the clerk of each company to keep a complete roll of the company, and a record of all meetings and all business transacted, and he shall also act as treasurer of the company. The commanding officer of the battalion or regiment, and the commanding officer of each company, shall each year, at least thirty days previous to the Annual Meeting, appoint an auditing committee of two, whose duty it shall be to examine the treasurer's reports, and compare the same with the vouchers, and the adjutant and each clerk shall, at each Annual Meeting, make a written report of all the receipts and expenditures, and accompanying each of said reports shall be the report of the auditing committee.

#### PARADES.

The annual parade of the battalion or regiment shall be



on the eleventh day of May, unless said day should be Sunday, and in that case the Annual Parade shall be the day following. Other parades may be made during the year, provided the majority present of each one of the companies, shall so vote.

#### QUORUM.

Thirteen members present, including a line officer, at any notified meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of company business.

Twenty-five members present, including a field officer or captain, at any notified meeting, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the battalion or regiment.

A less number may in either case adjourn.

#### BY-LAWS, HOW ALTERED.

These By-Laws shall not be added to, repealed, or amended unless a motion for the same has been made at one meeting and acted upon at some meeting thereafter, and not then unless a majority present of each company shall so vote.

#### II.

#### FROM THE PRELIMINARY ORGANIZATION TO THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

At the meeting held September 7, 1869, the battalion officers, and company officers of four companies were elected, to hold their respective offices until the Annual Election.

On the 29th of September, the first parade of the



Battalion was made, on which occasion they visited Silver Spring, and enjoyed a Rhode Island clam-bake.

The season was far advanced ; the previous days were uncommonly cool, and the Battalion not being in full working trim, the number present was quite small. This same day an invitation of the Infantry was accepted for a delegation from the Battalion to join them in their proposed excursion to New York in October.

On the 12th of October the delegates, namely, —

Col. W. W. Brown,	Sergeant E. M. Young,
Lieut.-Col. Henry Staples,	Corporal S. A. Wesson,
Major Zephaniah Brown,	Corporal G. H. Westcott,
Capt. A. C. Eddy,	Corporal J. T. Thornton,
Lieut. H. C. Bradford,	Private Truman Blanchard,
Lieut. A. Crawford Greene,	Private J. W. Greene,
Lieut. C. A. Hall,	Private W. H. Greene,
Lieut. T. M. Hawkins,	Private W. S. Hough,
Lieut. J. T. Pitman,	Private I. M. Potter,
Lieut. James Snow, Jr.,	Private J. W. Richardson,
Sergeant W. C. Chace,	Private W. B. Rhodes,
Sergeant W. H. Gale,	Private G. W. Talbot,
Sergeant Frank Molten,	Private H. H. Thomas,
Sergeant Brintnall Sabin,	Private W. H. Whitaker,
Sergeant G. W. Snow,	

were present, and started with the Infantry on their excursion. Upon the arrival at Stonington were met by a Fire-company with torches, and marched



through the principal streets of Stonington. Upon the arrival at New York were received by the Twenty-Second Regiment N. Y. S. M. Vol., and marched to their armory on Fourteenth Street, where a bountiful collation was provided. In the evening we attended a grand promenade concert, given by the Regiment in honor of the Infantry, and which was held in their armory. This concert was magnificent, and in the opinion of New York gentlemen, conversant with New York ways, it was an entertainment in which New York had fairly outdone itself. The following day we visited the different charitable institutions in the harbor of New York, in a steamboat chartered by the Regiment. A very bountiful collation was provided on the boat, and at each institution we were welcomed by a speech, in some cases by the superintendent, and in others by inmates of the institutions. Mary Stephens, a young miss, and Michael Donnelly, a lad, each welcomed us by a written speech. A badge of solid gold similar to those worn by the delegates on this occasion, with the name of the miss and lad engraved thereon, were subsequently presented by the delegates to each.

On the return to Providence were received by the remaining members of the Battalion, who provided a splendid collation at the armory.

The Battalion met on Wednesday, December 1, by order of Colonel Brown, to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of Sergeant-Major Henrie



Crandall, when the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas it has pleased our Heavenly Father to remove from us our Sergeant-Major, Colonel Henrie Crandall, it is

*Resolved*, That while we bow in humble submission to Him who doeth all things for the best, we shall miss our comrade in our councils, and mourn his absence from among us, for his many virtues endeared him to us, and fresh in our memory he will ever remain.

*Resolved*, That our heartfelt sympathies are hereby extended to the widow and fatherless in their sudden bereavement and hour of affliction, and we can only commend them to Him, upon whom they can place their full reliance, that His arm will support them in all their trials.

On the first day of February a meeting of the officers of the Battalion was held for the purpose of making arrangements for the celebration of the coming anniversary. Two committees were appointed, one, consisting of Colonel Brown, Captain Dyer, and Lieutenant Snow, authorized to make the arrangements for the day, and the other, consisting of Lieutenant-Colonel Staples, Captain Eddy, and Lieutenant Bradford, to make arrangements for the evening.

These committees met immediately, and the one for the day invited the Chaplain of the Battalion to offer the prayer, Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Staples to make an address, and Private George W. Pettes to deliver the poem. The committee for the evening



decided to have a Grand Promenade Concert in the evening.

The joint committee decided to invite the Infantry Company, and the Infantry Cadets, as guests of the Battalion.

### III.

#### ANNUAL MEETING. — ROSTER FOR 1870.

The Annual Meeting of the Battalion was held in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws, the 1st Monday in May, — May 2, 1870.

The following report of the Acting Adjutant was read : —

TO COLONEL W. W. BROWN,

*Commanding First Light Infantry Veteran Association, Providence, R. I.*

DEAR SIR : — By the declination of General James Shaw, Jr. to accept the position of Adjutant of the Battalion, the office has been vacant. Our By-Laws specify that the Adjutant shall act as Treasurer. It was a matter of great importance that the position should be filled, and that the bills against the Association should be paid. The undersigned has endeavored to perform the duties specified as particularly belonging to the duties of the Adjutant, and respectfully presents the following report of the receipts and expenditures since the organization of our Association.

Total Receipts . . . . .	\$656.00
Total Payments . . . . .	202.46
Balance on hand . . . . .	<u>\$453.54.</u>



There are now two hundred and eleven past members of the Infantry, residing or supposed to be residing in or near the city, who have not yet signed the books of our Association. I would suggest the appointment of a committee, to call upon these gentlemen without delay, and obtain their signatures upon our books.

Since our organization death has entered our ranks, and two of our comrades were taken from us the same day.

SERGEANT-MAJOR COLONEL HENRIE CRANDALL was a native of Voluntown, Connecticut. He removed to Providence in 1852, and entered the counting-room of Ex-Governor Dyer, where he remained up to the time of his death. He was a member of the School Committee of the city of Providence from 1860 to 1866. He was at one time Assistant Commissary of the State, and under the administration of Governor Smith served as Assistant Adjutant General. He was also a member of the personal staff of Governor Dyer and Governor Turner. At the breaking out of the Rebellion, he enlisted in the Marine Artillery, and served as sergeant in the First Battery.

He became a member of the Infantry June 1, 1857, and at the first election of our Association he was elected Sergeant-Major. He died November 27, 1869, in the fortieth year of his age.

CHARLES CURTIS FLAGG was the son of Henry and Jennet Flagg, and was born at East Sudbury, Massachusetts, March 29, 1821. He received a common school education in his native town. He went to Boston and to Lowell to reside, and from thence came to Providence in 1849. He then went to Sacramento, California, and returned to Providence in 1854, and then became engaged



in the fancy dry-goods business, which business he retained to the time of his death.

He died at Elmwood, November 27, 1869, and was buried at Swan Point Cemetery. He became a member of the Infantry May 18, 1843, and signed the books of our Association but a very few days previous to his death. He had not been assigned to a company. He died unmarried.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY STAPLES,

*Acting Adjutant.*

The undersigned, Auditing Committee appointed by Colonel Brown, have examined the within report of the Acting Adjutant and compared it with the vouchers, and find the same correct.

(Signed)	WILLIAM VIALL,	} <i>Auditing</i>
	JAMES R. DORRANCE,	

Voted, that the report be received and placed on file.

A committee was appointed consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Staples, Captain Eddy, and Lieutenant Snow, fully authorized to make all necessary arrangements relative to the annual bake. The committees previously appointed to make arrangements for celebrating the First Anniversary, verbally reported their progress. The companies then separated for the election of their own officers, and the officers elected subsequently met and elected the field and staff officers of the battalion. The warrant-officers having



been nominated in accordance with the terms of the By-Laws, were appointed by the Colonel commanding, and the complete Roster for 1870 is as follows :

*Colonel,*

General William W. Brown.

*Lieutenant-Colonel,*

Colonel Henry Staples.

*Major,*

Major-General Ambrose E. Burnside.

*Adjutant,*

*Quartermaster,*

Major Nehemiah S. Draper.

*Assistant Quartermaster,*

Lieutenant James R. Dorrance.

*Commissary,*

Brigadier-General James Shaw.

*Assistant Commissary,*

Lieutenant Edmund Davis.

*Paymaster,*

Captain Stephen K. Rathbone.

*Assistant Paymaster,*

Colonel William Viall.

*Surgeon,*

Francis L. Wheaton.

*Assistant Surgeon,*

N. A. Fisher.



*Chaplain,*

Right Reverend Thomas M. Clark, D. D.

*Quartermaster Sergeant,*

James C. Bucklin.

COMPANY A.

<i>Captain,</i>	Ex-Governor Elisha Dyer.
<i>1st Lieutenant.</i>	Colonel John T. Pitman.
<i>2d Lieutenant,</i>	Major Luther C. Warner.
<i>3d Lieutenant,</i>	Clifton A. Hall.
<i>4th Lieutenant,</i>	Benjamin W. Ham.
<i>Clerk and Treasurer,</i>	Francis A. Cranston.
<i>1st Sergeant,</i>	Charles Sabin.
<i>2d Sergeant,</i>	William H. Gale.
<i>3d Sergeant,</i>	Samuel T. Thurber.
<i>4th Sergeant,</i>	Henry Pitman.
<i>1st Corporal,</i>	Samuel A. Wesson.
<i>2d Corporal,</i>	George W. Prentice.
<i>3d Corporal,</i>	Stephen Smith.
<i>4th Corporal,</i>	George R. Whipple.

PRIVATES.

George E. Allen.	William H. H. Butts.
David C. Anthony.	Samuel W. Brown.
Alexander F. Adie.	William E. Browne.
Zephaniah Brown.	Sewall T. Capron.
Frederic L. Brown.	Captain Shubael H. Cady.
William Whipple Brown.	Thomas W. Chace.
George W. Babcock.	George W. Corey.
Lieutenant Ezra B. Bullock.	Leon Chappotin.



Captain Charles R. Dennis.	Cornelius Draper.
Henry C. Johnson.	Albert W. Delanah.
George B. Jastram.	Captain Christopher Duck-
Hon. Edward P. Knowles.	worth.
Lyman Klapp.	Benjamin C. Gladding.
Robert E. P. Low.	William E. Hamlin.
Albert P. Miller.	William Hicks.
Luke H. Miller.	Hon. Wingate Hayes.
Robert Niven.	David Heaton.
Noah D. Payne.	Charles W. Jenckes.
Henry L. Parsons,	George A. Spink.
Daniel W. Prentice.	William L. Southwick.
Thomas A. Richardson.	Simri Smith.
George A. Richards.	William H. Shaw.
Christopher Rhodes.	James H. Warner.
Henry J. Steere.	Erastus L. Walcott.
General James Shaw, Jr.	William Whitaker.
Martin C. Stokes.	

COMPANY B.

<i>Captain,</i>	Colonel Joseph W. Taylor.
<i>1st Lieutenant,</i>	Colonel A. Crawford Greene.
<i>2d Lieutenant,</i>	Thomas M. Hawkins.
<i>3d Lieutenant,</i>	Albert L. Calder.
<i>4th Lieutenant,</i>	Henry C. Bradford.
<i>Clerk and Treasurer,</i>	William T. Dorrance, 2d.
<i>1st Sergeant,</i>	John W. Noyes.
<i>2d Sergeant,</i>	James P. Fisher.
<i>3d Sergeant,</i>	Benjamin G. Snow.
<i>4th Sergeant,</i>	Frank Molten.
<i>1st Corporal,</i>	George H. Westcott.



<i>2d Corporal,</i>	Charles F. A. Capron.
<i>3d Corporal,</i>	Edward Mason.
<i>4th Corporal,</i>	James A. Windsor.

## PRIVATES.

George W. Arnold.	Bailey W. Evans.
Christopher B. Arnold, Jr.	James Eldred.
Tristram H. Angell.	Samuel J. Foster.
Joseph Balch.	John Garside.
Major M. Page Buffum, U. S. A.	Alfred Garfield.
Paymaster Sam'l T. Browne,	General John G. Hazard.
U. S. N.	Lewis H. Humphrey.
Thomas W. Hart.	
Henry G. Carpenter.	A. S. Langley.
Smith Owen.	Edwin Lowe.
Gorham P. Pomroy.	Louis Leveck.
Hon. William S. Patten.	George H. Manchester.
Lt.-Colonel Charles H. Parkhurst.	Col. Edwin J. Nightingale.
	Ex-Governor James Y. Smith.
Charles D. Pennell.	John H. Springer.
William W. Rathbun.	James H. Sabin.
Lieut. James L. Richardson.	William Sessions.
Benjamin W. Spink.	Archibald D. Simmons.
William J. Clark.	Sergt. Oliver P. Treat.
Alexander B. Chace.	Sylvester Taylor.
Henry C. Cranston.	Hanson H. Thomas.
Aaron B. Curry.	James N. Thurber.
George W. Danielson.	Henry G. Tucker.
Oliver F. Dutcher.	Henry A. Weeden.



Stephen Webster.

Edward Williams.

Stephen P. Wardwell.

Rev. Augustus Woodbury.

George G. Wilbur.

COMPANY C.

*Captain,*

Col. Job Angell.

*1st Lieutenant,*

Capt. Samuel H. Thomas.

*2d Lieutenant,*

Maj. Sylvester R. Knight.

*3d Lieutenant,*

Edward Burr.

*4th Lieutenant,*

D. Brainard Blake.

*Clerk and Treasurer,*

Col. Daniel W. Lyman.

*1st Sergeant,*

William C. Chace.

*2d Sergeant,*

George W. Snow.

*3d Sergeant,*

Lieut. Stephen Thurber.

*4th Sergeant,*

John R. Dorrance.

*1st Corporal,*

Albert G. Barton,

*2d Corporal,*

Aldridge B. Gardiner.

*3d Corporal,*

Daniel T. Lyman.

*4th Corporal,*

Jonathan T. Thornton.

PRIVATEs.

Benjamin F. Almy.

George W. Butts.

James B. Ames.

Joseph A. Barker.

Sergt. Samuel W. Anthony.

William Butler.

John W. Angell.

Truman Blanchard.

Charles C. Armstrong.

William E. Barrett.

Lieut. Edmund F. Annable.

Lieut. William E. Clarke.

James H. Allen.

Sergt. Hollis M. Coombs.

James H. Bugbee.

Lt.-Col. Elisha Dyer, Jr.

Col. William P. Blodgett.

John F. Dyer.



William B. Dart.	Alanson Pitcher.
Conrad C. Ellery.	Henry K. Potter.
Thomas F. Fessenden.	George W. Pettes.
David Gowdey.	Frank J. Potter.
Samuel Gladding.	Lieut. Daniel S. Remington.
John W. Greene.	William Ross.
James Humphreys.	Josiah W. Richardson.
Ephraim A. Hathaway.	Benjamin P. Robinson.
Walter S. Hough.	Charles H. Sheldon.
Charles H. Hemmenway.	H. Herbert Sheldon.
Lieut. John J. Jenckes.	Lieut. Samuel G. Trippe.
Charles H. Kilton.	William H. Teel.
Benjamin E. Kinsley.	Sylvanus Tingley.
William H. McCormick.	George W. Talbot.
Henry W. Mason.	James Wilson.
Timothy Newell.	Albert D. Wheeler.
Arnold L. Potter.	

#### COMPANY D.

<i>Captain,</i>	Col. Albert C. Eddy.
<i>1st Lieutenant,</i>	Col. Edwin Metcalf.
<i>2d Lieutenant,</i>	Jeremiah M. Vose.
<i>3d Lieutenant,</i>	James Snow, Jr.
<i>4th Lieutenant,</i>	Joseph Martin.
<i>Clerk and Treasurer,</i>	Frederic W. Arnold.
<i>1st Sergeant,</i>	Albert H. Hartwell.
<i>2d Sergeant,</i>	Lieut. Brintnall Sabin.
<i>3d Sergeant,</i>	Stephen A. Barker.
<i>4th Sergeant,</i>	Edward M. Young.
<i>1st Corporal,</i>	Joseph H. Kendrick.



*2d Corporal,*  
*3d Corporal,*  
*4th Corporal,*

Nathaniel F. Potter, Jr.  
Col. George B. Thomas.  
Sullivan Moulton.

PRIVATES.

Elisha F. Aldrich.  
Edward W. Allen.  
David B. Anthony.  
Tillinghast Almy.  
John B. Anthony.  
James P. Arnold.  
Thomas Brown.  
Hon. John R. Bartlett.  
William H. Bean.  
John R. Balch.  
David H. Braman.  
Benjamin B. Brownell.  
George H. Chadsey.  
Robert B. Chambers.  
Cyrus Cleveland.  
William E. Cutting.  
Edwin A. Calder.  
Hon. Thomas A. Doyle.  
William H. Greene.  
Augustus Hoppin.  
William H. Hudson.  
John B. Howell.  
James L. Jones.  
Hon. Jabez C. Knight.  
George H. Lincoln.  
Allen C. Mathewson.

Joseph P. Manton.  
Henry N. Manchester.  
Charles G. McKnight, M. D.  
George H. Pike.  
Roger W. Potter.  
George R. Phillips.  
Isaac Peck.  
Isaac M. Potter.  
Capt. Henry Richardson.  
William B. Rhodes.  
Samuel C. Dennis.  
Israel H. Day.  
Albert T. Elliott.  
Hon. Benjamin T. Eames.  
Lieut. William H. Fenner.  
Daniel W. Field.  
James Greene.  
Joseph C. Greene.  
Nathan J. Smith.  
Lieut. Francis J. Sheldon.  
Nicholas Sheldon.  
Ex-Gov. Thomas G. Turner.  
Henry F. Tingley.  
Sergt. John A. Vaughan.  
Lt.-Col. Augustus Wright.



COMPANY E.

<i>Captain,</i>	Col. George W. Hallett.
<i>1st Lieutenant,</i>	Lieut. Robert Barker.
<i>2d Lieutenant,</i>	George E. Martin.
<i>3d Lieutenant,</i>	Charles Morris Smith.
<i>4th Lieutenant,</i>	Matthew Sweet.
<i>Clerk and Treasurer,</i>	George Wheaton, 2d.
<i>1st Sergeant,</i>	Christopher H. Alexander.
<i>2d Sergeant,</i>	H. Frank Payton.
<i>3d Sergeant,</i>	James Warren.
<i>4th Sergeant,</i>	William H. Calder.
<i>1st Corporal,</i>	Henry Armington.
<i>2d Corporal,</i>	William A. Grant.
<i>3d Corporal,</i>	Henry Paige.
<i>4th Corporal,</i>	James C. Hidden.

PRIVATES.

Augustus Arnold.	Frank Mauran.
William R. Andrews.	Capt. Suchet Mauran.
John R. Allen.	Col. Henry H. Ormsbee.
Hiram B. Aylesworth.	Edward Pearce.
William Barstow.	William S. Chace.
Arnold Briggs.	George B. Calder.
William Barton.	John F. Crump.
Joshua Bicknell.	Josiah W. Crooker.
George D. Kelly.	Charles S. Cleveland.
Christopher Lippitt.	Andrew A. Calder.
William D. Manchester.	Henry H. Fish.
Stephen Moulton.	John H. Gladding.



John W. Gale.	William Staples.
Albert C. Greene.	Horatio N. Slocum.
Frank L. Gay.	Col. Henry T. Sisson.
Robert B. Gray.	Col. Samuel P. Sanford.
Nicholas B. Gardiner.	John Sanford.
Jarvis E. Gladding, Jr.	Pardon Sheldon.
George G. Hail.	Frederic N. Seabury, M. D.
George Hutchins.	Hon. Thomas Steere.
Albert T. Johonnet.	John T. Stone.
Charles H. Peckham.	William C. Townsend.
William P. Rathbone.	Frederic A. Warner.
Francis J. Read.	C. Earle Whitaker.

MEMBERS NOT YET ASSIGNED.

William E. Arnold.	William H. Draper.
Daniel Angell.	Nathaniel D. Fletcher.
John M. Barker.	William H. Hawkins.
Fayette P. Brown.	John W. Hill.
Leander C. Belcher.	Marshall B. Mead.
Joseph H. Bosworth.	George V. Pierce.
John E. Bradford.	William L. Roberts.
Thomas S. Brown.	Col. Lewis Richmond.
George R. Drowne.	George W. Robinson.
Edwin N. Dennison.	Henry Waterman.

The committee on organization are very desirous that past members of the Infantry, who are eligible to become members of this Association, shall become members without delay. The committee are desirous of filling up the sixth company, and then propose to assign all new members proportionably to each company.



## IV.

## THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY.

At the celebration of the First Anniversary, Wednesday, May 11, 1870, the weather proving unpleasant, the street parade was dispensed with.

The Association met at Howard Hall, the Infantry and Infantry Cadets meeting at the Infantry Armory. The line was formed on Dorrance Street, and marched direct to the Opera House. A band of four drums and four fifes accompanied our Association, the American Band with the Infantry, and the Infantry Cadets with a drum band of their own.

Upon arriving at the Opera House a good audience had assembled, and notwithstanding the weather, the house was nearly filled.

The exercises were commenced by the American Band playing selections from "La Africaine."

The following prayer was then offered by the chaplain, Bishop Clark :—

## PRAYER.

O most powerful and glorious Lord God, the God of Hosts, in whom is our refuge and our strength, we come into Thy sacred presence with reverence and filial fear. We thank Thee that we live in a land of Christian light and constitutional liberty. Look with favor, we beseech Thee, upon all those institutions which have for their aim the protection of our government against foreign invasion and domestic discord, and the advancement of education, morality, and pure religion. We thank Thee for the



noble work accomplished by that body of men who are represented here to-day, when, at the call of the nation, they went forth into the field to save our country from disunion, anarchy, and destruction. We bless Thee for the good and noble examples of those who fell in that bitter struggle. The memory of the brave shall be forever hal-  
lowed. Bless the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and all others in authority, and give them the wisdom and the special grace which they need in the high stations to which they are called. And may those who have been chosen to represent the people in council, laying aside all prejudice, unrighteous ambition, and selfish designs, give themselves with a true mind and will, to the promotion of such measures as will advance the safety, honor, and welfare of the whole land, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations.

May the affairs of nations everywhere and at all times be so administered, that there shall be no more need of war in defense of human rights, and no more aggression of the strong against the weak.

We now invoke Thy benediction upon the exercises in which we are to engage. May this be a pleasant and profitable season, binding us together in the common bond of fraternity and citizenship.

As we review the history of the past, may we be quickened to nobler things in the future, and when at last the trumpet of recall is sounded, and the Master calls us to lay down our arms, and enter upon our final rest, may we all go home rejoicing, having fought the good fight, and having kept the faith. All which we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.



The following address was then delivered by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Staples :—

*Mr. Commander and Comrades :—*

Disappointment is the common lot of life. How often do we, with our best prepared, most carefully-matured and well-arranged plans, instead of receiving the result we anticipated, have disappointment for our lot.

Your committee have invited me to address you to-day upon matters appertaining to the history of the Infantry. This subject has once before been presented to you, and those of you who have come hither to-day with the expectation of hearing anything new in reference to the history of our organization, or of even passing this portion of time in any manner satisfactory to yourselves, will find the common lot of life will be yours.

Fifty-two years ago to-day the charter of the Infantry Company was granted. We must commence back at this period, noticing carefully all the surroundings and comparing them closely through the different years down to the present time, before we can with any degree of accuracy determine whether the Infantry of to-day occupies the position that it should ; whether it has kept pace with its surroundings or not.

We commence then with a town of about seven thousand inhabitants. We find seven houses of public worship, five schools under the control of the town, maintained by an annual appropriation of thirty-five hundred dollars, with about eight hundred scholars ; also one other school, under the control of the Friends' Society ; eight banks, and two of our present insurance companies. The annual appropriation for town expenses was thirty-five thousand



dollars, which amount would not now last many of the single sessions of our City Council. "This was long before there was any public appropriation for the lighting of streets, and it was no uncommon sight then to see the citizens wending their way over the uneven sidewalks, by the glimmering light of their own hand lanterns." It was long before it was practically demonstrated, or even believed, that a steamboat could with safety sail around Point Judith. It was long before steam cars, street cars, gas, water works, public parks, or even the enjoyment of high taxes, were dreamed of in this community. We could hear the echo of the horses' hoofs resounding from Market Square, announcing the arrival of the daily line of stages from Boston, here to connect with another line over the New London turnpike, making the speedy and popular route of travel between Boston and New York. We could hear the drum of the Town Sergeant, as he rode through the town in his chaise, notifying the citizens to meet at the Town House for the election of town officers, and to transact town business.

Now as we glance on either side, we see what rapid strides of improvement have been made. We behold before us the second city of New England, and undoubtedly the first in wealth proportional to the population in our country ; a city which bids fair soon to rob a neighboring city of the name which it has so long held as the City of Churches ; a city whose schools and school-houses we point to with pride, and whose highways are a model for all. We see street cars running in every direction, and steam cars and steamboats to carry us over our whole country ; magnificent buildings towering up on every



hand ; old landmarks removed ; highways widened, without regard to expense ; expensive city halls built each year — on paper ; magnificent parks laid out ; untold amounts appropriated for the introduction of water ; a huge debt piled up, the annual interest of which is nearly double the appropriation for the year at our starting point ; large appropriations for the fiscal years, which are entirely exhausted within a few months ; yet, with all these, undoubted prosperity is evident on every side. In one respect only have we not gained as in all others, and that is commerce, for the duties received at our custom-house in 1869 were only about twenty-three thousand dollars more than the amount paid in 1818, showing that in the progress of time the larger ports have almost completely swallowed up the smaller ones. These are the items with which we must compare, and rapid strides must we also have made to keep pace with them.

In a small room in the upper story of the Hamilton Building, recently demolished, was a literary society known as the Greene Association, which was composed of a large number of influential young men. This room was the birth-place of the Infantry, and through the efforts of members of this society it was ushered into existence.

The first preliminary meeting of which we have any trace was in March, 1818, and the name then proposed was the Rhode Island Light Infantry, which name was, however, soon changed for the present one. There were at this time five independent military companies in Providence, also a full regiment of militia. The law of our State then not only required all male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five to do military duty, but also compelled them to arm and equip themselves.



About this time, there was an entire change made in the field officers of the Second Regiment, and Nehemiah S. Draper had been prevailed upon to accept the position of Major. At the preliminary meetings of the company, the officers were decided upon, and Nehemiah S. Draper was elected Captain, and Job Angell, First Lieutenant ; but Captain Draper, having so recently accepted the position in the regiment, declined in the company, and, at the first meeting after the granting of the charter, Lieutenant Job Angell was elected, accepted, and commissioned as the first commandant of the Infantry. We are proud to point, upon our own roll of veterans to-day, to the names of Captain Draper, Captain Angell, Lieutenant Stephen K. Rathbone, Corporal William P. Rathbone, Israel H. Day, and Joseph Balch, as signers to the petition for our charter, all of whom I believe are now present, and our most sincere wish is that many a coming anniversary may find them all participating in its pleasures. The Infantry was attached to the Second Regiment as the right flanking company. The commandant was commissioned as captain, while the commandants of the other independent companies were commissioned as colonels, and this, in subsequent years, was the cause of much unpleasantness.

The dress of the dressy young man of that day was a blue dress-coat, with a plain gilt button ; and the first uniform adopted by the Infantry was this same dress-coat, with brass *bell* buttons substituted for the flat ones, white pants, and a peculiar style of gaiter boots reaching nearly to the knee. This button gave them a name that they were long known by, as the Bell Button Company. The early years show most conclusively that the company was



determined to acquire a thorough knowledge of military discipline.

Patience, perseverance, and determination marked every step. Their selection of officers was peculiarly fortunate, and at the very outset they acquired a very conspicuous position among the citizen soldiery of the age, and in their first years they escorted the Governor and officers to and from the line at the celebration of the Fourth of July; also, by invitation of the students of Brown University, they escorted the graduating class, and were entertained at a dinner by them; and, at the Brigade Review, escorted the officers of the Brigade to the parade-ground.

Captain Job Angell was exceedingly popular with the Company, but to their great regret, at the election in 1820, he declined a reëlection. Under his administration, fifty-seven members were admitted.

In April, 1820, Lieutenant Stephen K. Rathbone was elected Captain, and, shortly after his election, two sergeants were appointed by him as Drill Sergeants, and they were to see that each new member was perfectly acquainted with the manual exercise before he could enter the ranks. This of itself shows us the character of the second commandant, and his determination to at least keep up the reputation the Company had already acquired.

The first reception by the Company was in 1821, when, in connection with two other independent companies, a company of Cadets from West Point was received. This reception was a glorious one for the Infantry, for the experienced military eye of its commandant saw before him a company under a high state of discipline, practicing drills and manœuvres previously unknown to him. This



new drill was at once adopted, and competent, disinterested testimony asserts that in a very short time the scholars equaled their model.

The first excursion was in 1822, when the Company marched to Bristol. The following September, a new uniform coat, cap, and plume were adopted.

A noticeable fact in the election of 1823 is that two of the sergeants and two of the corporals then elected were subsequently elected commandants of the Company.

In August, 1823, the Company visited Newport, and accepted a collation furnished by Brigadier-General Collins, at his residence. The first parade on Washington's birthday took place in 1824. A committee was appointed this year to build an armory. The expense was obtained by making shares of five dollars each. The first meeting in this Armory was held April 7. The previous meetings had been held at the Court House, Manufacturers' Hotel, Mr. Bullard's school-room, and other places. This Armory was a small, one-story wooden building opposite the Mansion House, slightly in the rear of Benefit Street. This same year the Company marched to Lime Rock for camp duty, and, upon their return to the Armory, found an elegant new flag hoisted upon their flag-staff, also a note stating it was presented by a number of young men, and, if it was not acceptable, they wished it hoisted union down. The Company were not accustomed to see our nation's flag in that position, and declined trying the experiment.

In September, 1824, the Infantry again escorted the students, and were by them presented with a standard.

At the celebration, February 22, 1825, the Chaplain of



the Company, the late Hon. Albert G. Greene, delivered the oration.

In August, 1825, the Company visited Taunton by steamer, encamped four days, and marched home.

In March, 1826, a committee was appointed to buy a new stand of arms.

At the election in 1826, Captain Rathbone declined a reelection, but the company were exceedingly reluctant to accept his declination. Under his administration the Company made rapid headway. They owned a full and complete set of camp equipage; had made important additions to their uniform; had been repeatedly honored by town and other committees of various celebrations.

Lieutenant John J. Stimson was elected Captain, and at the same meeting, our esteemed commandant, Colonel Brown, was elected 4th Corporal. At the meeting in July, 1826, James Shaw was elected Armorer.

In August, 1826, the Company visited Warren and Bristol, marching both ways. On their return to Providence they received the Boston Light Infantry on their return from New York, and in this same month drilled for the first time in double ranks. In October, 1826, the Infantry visited Newport to take part in the funeral obsequies of Commodore Perry, returned home by sloop, landing at Pawtuxet, and marching to Providence.

At the election in 1829, Captain Stimson declined a reelection. This act was very much regretted. His administration was highly advantageous to the prosperity of the Company. He had served as Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant for many years; was thoroughly acquainted with the school of the soldier; labored untiringly and



earnestly for the benefit of the Company ; gave his best efforts to perfect them in thorough discipline, and under him they made rapid advancement in military knowledge and acquirements.

Captain Stimson was in command three years, and during that time ninety members were admitted.

Lieutenant William L. Field was elected Captain in 1829.

In July, 1829, the Company visited Worcester in a canal boat, upon invitation of the captain of the boat. The rate of travel was not at such a high rate of speed, nor did the waves roll so high as to prevent them from landing at various places, and marching through the principal towns and villages.

At the close of the year, Captain Field declined serving again. The Company under him had fully maintained their previous position, and the finances were in such a flourishing condition that a committee was appointed to invest the surplus funds in bank-stock. During the year, seventeen members were admitted. At the election in 1830, Sergeant James Shaw was elected Captain. The Company previous to this time, had ever since their organization, paraded as a battalion, each section being considered as a company. Captain Shaw, upon assuming command, changed this drill.

In August, 1830, the Infantry marched to Gordon Arnold's for an encampment, and in June 8, 1831, received the Boston City Guards on their way to New York.

In September, 1831, the Company were for the first time called out by the Governor for actual service, to quell a riot in the northern part of the town. The Governor



called upon Captain Shaw at about half-past nine in the evening. At about eleven, twenty-two members were collected together, who, with the Governor and Sheriff, proceeded immediately to the scene. The men were supplied with two blank, and two ball cartridges each. They acted under orders of the Governor, who imagined that the presence of a military company might disperse the rioters. The Company was pelted with stones and other missiles, and thirteen members were hit. Finding the effect was not what it was expected it would be, they were marched back to the Armory and dismissed by the Governor. They again assembled on Saturday evening by the Governor's orders, with the other independent companies. The line was formed and marched to Smith's Hill. The dragoons and infantry, then by orders of the Sheriff, were marched down to Smith's Bridge, the Infantry on the right. The rioters surrounded both companies and threw many missiles at them. Finding everything else unavailing, the Sheriff, standing by the side of Captain Shaw, told him to fire. Captain Shaw gave the order to the second platoon to fire and then immediately to reload. Four of the rioters were killed, or died from the effects of their wounds; the mob immediately dispersed, and order was again restored. The action of the Company was favorably commented upon by all the papers far and near, and it was said to be the first instance wherein the citizen soldiery of our country were called upon to fire into a mob to disperse it. The Company again were under arms some four or five hours the following Sunday evening, when they were dismissed by the Governor, with his thanks.

In June, 1832, the Infantry received the State's Fenci-



bles of Philadelphia, and in October following paraded in a new uniform. During the following winter the Light Infantry drill was for the first time practiced. The papers of 1833 speak of the Infantry as "an admirably disciplined and uniform company, and doubt whether the country can produce a military company more exact in its discipline, or more martial in its appearance."

In July, 1833, the Company visited New York, and were received by a battalion. The four New York papers, which were then and are now in existence, all agree in speaking of the Infantry in very complimentary terms.

In July, 1834, the Infantry received the Tompkins Blues, of New York, and they were bountifully cared for during their visit of nearly three days.

In September following the Company again visited Newport.

**1758068**

At the election in 1835, Captain Shaw, to the great regret of the Company, declined reëlection. He had filled the office of Captain for five years. Under his administration the Company had increased in numbers, in efficiency, and in means. He had most acceptably filled the various positions of warrant officers, and brought to his position as Captain a full and thorough knowledge of the duties required as such. He found it in a good state of discipline and surrendered it much advanced.

During the five years under Captain Shaw, the Company added one hundred members to its list.

At the election in 1835, Lieutenant William W. Brown was elected Captain. He had previously filled the positions of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, to the entire satisfaction of the members ; and the records for several



years previous conclusively show the great acceptance with which he performed his duty on many important committees.

In June, 1835, the Company received the Boston Fusiliers, and in August, visited Boston with the Boston Brass Band, and were welcomed with unbounded hospitality.

In January, 1836, gray pantaloons were adopted.

On Sunday, July 3, of this year, the Infantry received the New York Light Guards, and both companies attended service at St. John's Church.

In August the Infantry participated in the centennial celebration of Providence. Same month visited Stone Bridge for an encampment, remaining four days.

In January, 1837, the Company gave a grand ball at City Hotel.

In September, Captain Brown visited West Point for the express purpose of witnessing the drill of the Cadets, and returned perfectly satisfied with the drill of the Infantry.

In April, 1838, the Company paraded with the American Brass Band, it being the first appearance of the Band in the streets.

In May, 1838, a committee was appointed to build a new Armory.

In June, 1838, an invitation was received from the citizens of Apponaug for the Infantry to visit them July 4.

In February, 1839, the first meeting in the new Armory was held. This Armory is still owned by the Company, and is situated on Meeting Street. The original cost of it was about three thousand dollars, paid for mostly by the Company. This new Armory seems to have infused new



life into the members, for at the second meeting eleven were admitted. In August following, the Infantry visited Stonington, stopping at Westerly by invitation of the citizens, and partaking of refreshments. Remained four days at Stonington, and everything was done by the citizens to make their visit pleasant.

In June, 1840, again visited Newport, and in October, 1840, visited Boston upon invitation of Boston City Grays.

During the winter of 1840 and 1841 a course of concerts was given in the Armory, by the Glee Club of the Company.

In March, 1841, Captain Brown was presented with a magnificent silver pitcher and goblets by the Company, at the largest meeting of the Infantry ever held.

In August, 1841, the Infantry visited New Bedford, and were received by the New Bedford Guards, and a cavalcade escort under the command of Colonel John H. Clifford. The citizens of New Bedford, including the ladies, were very profuse in their hospitality.

In October, 1841, the Boston City Grays were received, who visited Providence by special invitation of the Infantry. The trials of 1842 were promptly met by the Company. The firmness of their presiding officer won laurels for them. Large additions were made to the ranks, and all orders were faithfully and promptly executed. Captain Brown was in command of the Battalion, to which the Infantry was attached.

This year the Company made their first appearance in red coats.

An incident occurred in the latter part of this year which is one of interest to all our citizens. The veteran,



Joseph C. Greene, had resigned the leadership of the band, and moved to Boston some considerable time before this, and the Band at this time was in anything but a flourishing condition. The members of the Infantry, having the interest of the band at heart, inquired why it was that Mr. Greene persisted in remaining in Boston, and when told that the sole reason was, because his income was more there than here, they promptly raised among themselves this difference, which was several hundred dollars. Mr. Greene then moved back, and again accepted the leadership of the band. This prompt action of the Infantry, gives us the American Band of to-day, of almost world-wide popularity.

In 1845, the bear-skin cap was adopted.

In 1858, Captain Brown was elected Major-General of the State ; he, however, resigned in September of the same year, and returned to the Infantry. Lieutenant-Colonel Nathaniel W. Brown was elected Commandant, but willingly resigned as soon as the Major-General's resignation was accepted. The parades, excursions, and receptions of the Company from 1845 to 1860 were many, and some of them of a most important nature. Three times they went to Boston, as the guests of the city, where unbounded hospitality was showered on the Company ; magnificent collations were offered at the residences of many prominent private citizens, and Rhode Island money was refused in nearly every place it was offered. The Infantry also visited, during this period, Salem, Worcester, Hartford, Norwich, and New York, in each of which places every courtesy was shown them. The frequent interchange of visits between them and their old, true, tried, and firm



friends, the New England Guards, and also the Salem Infantry, Worcester City Guards, New York Light and City Guards, and Putnam Phalanx, recall many scenes of interest and pleasure to all. Extracts from the papers of the abovenamed places furnish ample testimony of their opinions of the Infantry. The Grand Excursion was the trip to Cleveland, Ohio, in 1860, with one hundred muskets, full staff, occupying ten days. The grand parade was a complimentary one to Colonel Brown in 1858, with two hundred and fifty-six members. There were seven parades during this year, averaging one hundred and five men to each. At the call for troops in 1861, two companies of Infantry promptly responded, and were known as Company C, Captain W. W. Brown, and Company D, Captain N. W. Brown. These were full companies of one hundred and ten men each, furnishing their own equipments and overcoats.

Immediately upon the departure of these companies for Washington, an organization of those remaining was held, and Joseph W. Taylor was elected Colonel. The Company under him made several parades with full ranks, and the result only proved that the right person was in the right place. On the return from Washington in August, 1861, of Companies C and D, Colonel Taylor resigned, and Colonel Brown again resumed command, which position he retained until he declined in 1867.

What can I say of the administration of Colonel Brown? His whole life, so far, has been in the service of the Company: admitted in 1823, elected Commandant in 1835, resigning in 1867. Thirty-two of our fifty-two years have been under his command, a record which has no equal in



any volunteer military association of our country. We cannot refer to all the complimentary parades tendered him, or the many testimonials of love and esteem presented him by the Company. Far in the distance may that day be when any other name shall be substituted for his, as the name of our Colonel commanding.

An incident occurred about the year 1853 or 1854 which is worthy of notice. It was a regular meeting of the Company, but, being preparatory to an excursion, the attendance was very large. During the evening a prominent officer of the United States Army unexpectedly visited the Armory. He remained during the drill, and after the adjournment said he had taken great pleasure in witnessing the drill ; that he regarded the Infantry as the West Point of Rhode Island, and, as he watched the men in line, he thought in case of emergency a large proportion of them would hold commissions. Facts will show us presently the truth of this prophecy.

The administration of Captain Dennis I propose to leave for another. We of the past are fully satisfied with the successor of our old commandant. In his hands the interest and reputation of the Infantry are perfectly safe ; but when we speak of him, it must be of his whole administration, and may the day be far distant when that administration shall close.

Gatherings like this recall to our minds many friends of the past. That true patriot, Colonel Nathaniel W. Brown, and that Christian soldier, Captain Henry A. Prescott, whose lives were offered in defense of their country, and he whose prompt response in rhyme was ever ready for us, are gone from us forever. They leave vacant seats at our



meeting, but though absent, fresh in our memories they will ever remain. Comrades, the duty imposed on me of reducing the history of the Company for fifty-two years into about the same number of minutes, necessarily precludes allusion to many interesting events. The history of our Company is full of interest from its inception. I know that I am trespassing upon your patience, but bear with me yet for a few moments and I will trespass no more.

We made comparison of the present surroundings with the past, at our outset, as our guidance for our own position. Let us now turn the same comparisons within. We see forty-six members in 1818, comprising all the names on the petition for the charter. We see them coming from a small one-story wooden building not located upon any street, marching in single rank, dressed in their blue dress-coat with brass bell buttons, with their peculiar style of gaiters reaching nearly to the knee, armed with a heavy flint musket, which, after their dismissal, we see them carrying, with their equipments, home, to rub and polish preparatory for the next parade. Now we see yonder magnificent Armory filled with splendid equipments. We look again to our roll of forty-six, and find it has increased now to fourteen hundred and sixty-two, one hundred and eighty of whom have passed away. We see to-day a parade that cannot be surpassed in our country. We see nearly ninety lads, sons and grandsons of our members, thoroughly and neatly uniformed and equipped, and eighty men in a uniform and with equipments which for neatness and beauty cannot be excelled. Upwards of three hundred of our own veterans are with us, — three generations. Lads of twelve



are admitted to the cadets ; in due season they are transferred to the active roll, and having served their day and generation faithfully there, become veterans, and from the dawn of youth to the full length of life allotted to man, they are members of the Infantry.

This is the beauty of our own organization of Veterans, that it brings together twice each year very many who would not otherwise meet ; and, with two years for exceptions, we have upon our own roll of Veterans representatives of each year from the organization to 1865. Let us look again at our rolls, and see who the members are. We find there the names of five governors, one secretary of state, one senator, six speakers of the House of Representatives, thirty-three members of the House. We find in military officers, entirely independent of any of our infantry organizations, two major-generals, four brigadier-generals, sixteen members of brigade, regimental, and other staff officers, twelve colonels, three lieutenant-colonels, three majors, and five captains. So much for the State. For the city, we find the names of six mayors, eight aldermen, eight presidents of the council, one clerk of the council, forty-nine members of the council, one city clerk, two city auditors, two city solicitors, two city marshals. For the United States, we find one district attorney ; and for the late Rebellion we furnished ninety-one privates, eleven corporals, eighteen sergeants, two quartermaster sergeants, one hospital steward, eighty-six lieutenants, three adjutants, fifty-nine captains, three surgeons, one chaplain, seven aides-de-camp, one engineer, two members of signal corps, one captain of band, one paymaster, five quartermasters, one commissary, thirteen majors, seven lieutenant-colonels, nine colonels, one adjutant-general,



three brigadier-generals, and one major-general ; and to the navy, one lieutenant commander, one ensign, and two paymasters. I am indebted to the Honorable John R. Bartlett for the record of the Legislature, and to Lieutenant Warner, of Company A, for list of Army and Navy of the United States. Comrades, these are the comparisons adopted for our guidance. If we *have* kept pace with them, well ; if not, labor persistently still.

Gentlemen of the Active Roll : In closing, I have a few words for you. You have heard reference to some of the most prominent events in our Company. The reputation which has been secured was only obtained by concentrated effort and perseverance. It has not been all sunshine with us ; there have been some dark days ; yet through all a glorious name has been accorded to us. We of the past have almost as much interest in the prosperity of the Company as in those days when we stood in your places. You are the guardians of that name, and we shall hold you to a strict account of the trust. Scan well the character of every individual applicant for admission to your ranks. See that he possesses such habits, and such only, as you would like to see firmly established as the habits of your brothers. The record of the past belongs to us. That of the future depends upon you. This reputation is transmitted to you pure and untarnished. See that you transmit it to your successors as you have received it from us. Be true to us, be true to yourselves, be true to your country, be true to your God.

---

Music by the American Band.

The following Poem was then delivered by Private  
GEORGE W. PETTES : —



## CORONA.

---

"MARCH at the word, whatever fate befalls,  
Wherever Honor points or Duty calls." —

Such the plain order given to you and me  
As the first lesson of the Infantry.  
The inference is, the march precedes the fight;  
Look that the sword is keen, the armor bright;  
Excuse is vain, apology is barred,  
Honor rejects equivocation's card:  
I may not pause to argue *pro* or *con*,  
My Colonel speaks, — my duty must be done.

Mine is no task of chronologic date,  
Our mentor only takes a bond of fate.  
With ear attent we catch his earnest word  
Who wields with easy grace the pen or sword:  
As boys, once more we note each fact and  
scene, —  
The white tents sprinkled o'er the field of  
green,



The solid column and the long-drawn line;  
The smothered camp-fire at the hour of nine;  
That "*one more handsome man*" for whom  
was "*room*"

Doing guard penance in the midnight gloom;  
The motley garb that mocked the *reveille*  
For entering dream-land at the dawn of day;  
The "double quick" by late lethargics made;  
The prim precision of the dress-parade;  
The snow-white plume with every wind at  
play;  
The stately beauty of the gold and gray.

The march; while music fills the list'ning air,  
And man's approval hums from court and  
square,

And lovely ladies lean from window-sill  
And wave white kerchiefs at their own sweet  
will, —

Those royal flags of truce which always win  
All the heart's siege stores it can gather in, —  
The dapper surgeon ringing vervain bells;  
The truthful chaplain shielding *immortelles*;  
And here or there, a favored son of clay  
Wears at his musket's muzzle, a bouquet



Whose tiny rosebuds, roused from morning  
nap,  
Nod toward the generous pansy's velvet lap;  
The oak geranium o'ershades the balm;  
The jonquil nestles in the orchis' palm;  
The friendly ivy clasps the acacia tall;  
The jasmine guards the hyacinth, and all  
In violets set, by laughing maids, to make  
Half his platoon the tenth commandment  
break.

The halt,—the rest.—Adown the front rank  
line,  
Flashes the cunning telegraphic sign  
From the tall tenor with Brignoli chest  
To short *profundo basso* manifest,  
While the whole section forthwith clears its  
throat  
To swell the chorus with stentorian note.

Fashion is stern, and colors own their day:  
Farewell the courtly gold, the sober gray,  
For the sharp caucus' close-contested vote  
Is won by partisans of the scarlet coat.



Again the line is formed, and once again  
'Neath the same banner march the self-same  
men;

The same brave bugle from its silver throat  
Invokes its colleagues in peremptory note;  
The same sharp swords from shining scab-  
bards spring,

The same bright bands 'neath bristling bay-  
onets ring;

For the same chief who donned the gold  
and gray,

To lead his comrades in their boyhood's day,  
Again those comrades call with loud acclaim  
To win fresh trophies for his honored name.

The years roll on, the long, eventful years  
Filled with a nation's victories o'er its fears.  
Though devils league with traitors in the  
fight

The nation proves a unit for the right.

Time was, our words were imbecile and vain,  
We talked of freedom while we wore a chain.  
Wars' dented tablets were displayed to show  
That we had vanquished our maternal foe,  
And then we boasted loud of Liberty.

The world laughed out in bitter mockery,



That new born freemen who themselves had  
named,  
Should fail to grant the liberty they claimed.  
History has waited for the inspiring theme,  
The grand fulfillment of Columbia's dream,  
And when just men had conquered haughty  
greed,  
She seized the pen and chronicled the deed.

Now lift the blood-stained ensigns of the  
world.

Behold *our* banner is at last unfurled.  
Bravely the hero held the mountain pass,  
But not alone we name Leonidas;  
Fighting for truth, the Captains of the free  
Made of each gorge, a new Thermopylæ,  
And glory's sunlight falls alike upon  
The plains of Gettysburg and Marathon.

This day, from far and near we brothers  
come,

To taste the cheer of our Rhode Island home,  
And are all here, say Sergeant, are all told,  
All they who proudly wore the gray and gold,  
And they who doffed the old and donned  
the new,

Our loved companions in the red and blue?



All are *not* here: some sought a Western  
home,  
And some in foreign vale or city roam,  
Some died, in peaceful time, and o'er their  
graves,  
Planted by loving hands, the cypress waves;  
Some, at the battle's front, and 'gainst their  
names  
Is writ, "their history is ours and Fame's."

What, are we proud? Is not a soldier's life  
In peace display, machinery in strife?  
Go read our annals from the first decade,—  
Some timber stands of which our house was  
made,  
And what has fallen by the tooth of time,  
Failed not the promise of its lusty prime.

If you should find that statesmen and their  
peers  
Were writ interpolate with Brigadiers,  
If the professions should demand a mile  
On which to register in single file,  
If many a merchant of the highest grade  
His autographic specialty has made



On the broad page of that recondite book  
Within whose lids poltroonery dare not look,  
And if by dint of inquiry you saw  
That all were governed by harmonious law,  
If when the sword was sheathed, each man  
was known

To guard his brother's honor as his own,  
And when the bugle blew, together they  
Approved the lesson of their boyhood's day,—  
"March at the word whatever fate befalls,  
Wherever honor points or duty calls,"  
Would with their blood incarnadine the sod,  
True to themselves, their country, and their  
God,

Then might you tell the dignity of pride  
Felt by each soldier to that corps allied;  
O, would you blame him, prompted to declare,  
clare,

"*One* of my honors is the badge I wear."

Monarchial powers their standing armies  
wield

Against the opposing force on hostile field;  
The Gallic eagles fly o'er myriad tents  
When Guards Imperial dream of wars' events;



Each Prussian is a soldier, bred to know  
The strategy and tactics of his foe ;  
The Austrian banner never has been furled ;  
And England rolls her drum-beat round the  
    world ;  
The Russian boasts his stalwart grenadiers,  
But free Columbia shows her Volunteers.

I must not deal with you who come to-day  
In all the pomp of festival array,  
Not in your special cause my purpose rests,  
Our royal escort and our honored guests.

Unlike those men who said the Moor might  
    choose,  
And tell his Desdemona all the news,  
If I should woo and wed without consent  
Of this old, stern, Brabantian element,  
Ignoring the most fashionable course  
To seek Chicago for a quick divorce,  
These potent, grave, and reverend Seignor  
    Vets  
Would break the bands, O beautiful Cadets.

Shall we remember that in former days  
Some prudent people had no word of praise



For any martial form, and saw no worth  
In muskets at right angles with the earth.

The race is not extinct, — a little word  
In rhythmic parlance may not be unheard, —  
Where were the peace for which your heroes fought,

And where the freedom which their valor bought,

But for the martial school, the boyhood drill,  
The feigned encampment on the neighboring hill,

The true alignment, the methodic march,  
The lessons taught beneath yon Armory's arch?

A thousand ploughmen leave the furrowed vein,

Ten thousand tradesmen forfeit chance of gain,

An hundred thousand mechanicians come  
At the first summons of war's rattling drum.  
Where to find captains for these valiant bands,

These men of iron nerves and willing hands?  
O, who shall lead these champions of the free?  
Spring from your ranks, ye hundred Infantry!



Our country's braves in many a peaceful hall  
O'er war's mementos hold high festival;  
And we may cheerily cast some care away  
Which wrought so heavy in war's fatal day.  
From martial zeal to civic purpose turn,  
A few brief lessons and their morals learn.

Who thought when Grant exchanged cigars  
with Lee,  
And riding campward, chatted cozily  
About unpleasantness 'tween North and South,  
In sugar words that melted in the mouth,  
That in the halls where Truth and Treason  
are,  
Old Afric melodies would sell at par?

Who thought that Davis, who resigned his seat  
To dine with beings who kept fire to eat,  
And who forthwith assayed the important  
part  
Of champion stoker to the Southern heart,  
Would, an insurance agent, lend his aid  
To throw cold water on the fires he made?

Or stranger still, who dreamed when Davis  
went  
Of igneous compacts to be President,



That he to-day would mourn a Senate chair  
While Sambo revels in his glory there?

We ask discreetly, losing party names,  
What is it *true* conservatism claims?  
Must all be ultra? Is there no degree?  
May we not sometimes be a shade too free?

The helianthus tuberosus gains  
A fair report, in pickle, for our pains,  
But if not pruned, in whoso's garden set,  
Guiltless of grace and modest etiquette,  
Persists in forcing its intercalar roots  
To the upheaving of the vicia's shoots,  
And makes unsavory, with its giant weeds,  
The pomme de terre on which the nation  
feeds.

You must not only liberate the slave,  
But you must give him everything you have;  
Yield but this point, and on you unawares  
See all the races climb the Senate stairs.  
The erratic boomerang flies, and women  
wait  
While all too slowly swings the suffrage  
gate:



Thus partial evils follow in their turn,  
Like fireflies lighten, like siroccos burn,  
Just as in childhood, from Pandora's box  
First sprang the measles, then the chicken-  
pox.

Was it for this the soldier marched away  
From home and kindred to the battle fray  
Who learned his duty at his mother's knee?  
She sang him songs of Truth and Liberty,  
She taught him all the steps to Honor's throne,  
She won his heart-love when she gave her  
own.

Through his young life her blessed influence  
ran,  
Her holy precept nerved the vigorous man,  
Her soul was stirred by pure devotion's lore,  
Her rightful platform was the nursery floor.

---

Alas, we know to evanescent pelf,  
The honor given is never honor's self.  
For what is fame? To whom are honors  
paid,  
Since the great cheapening of the stock in  
trade?  
Aye, what *are* honors, when a court and crown  
With Congress vie to virtualize renown?



When a good queen who mildly draws her  
breath,  
O'erleaping judgment at a banker's death,  
Ordains that gold dust sprinkled upon clay,  
To vaults where Genius lies, the freight shall  
pay !

When a great ship within her monarch hulk  
Floats but one body as her cargo's bulk,  
When proud Columbia's monitors and men  
Tag at the tail of this despotic pen,  
When stark stagnation blights the country's  
veins,  
And nothing moves but — Peabody's remains!

No mammoth farce like this was ever played,  
Since from dark chaos the round world was  
made, —

Xerxes, Darius, Canute, never more  
May stand exemplars on profusion's shore,  
But all extravagance of huge regard,  
All gifts when money is its own reward,  
All monstrous flattery, all purchased shows,  
All prolongation which no reason knows,  
And all insane idolatry will be  
Proved by comparison with Peabody.



Earth's tinsel shimmers in Arcturus' rays  
And to his rapturous look responsive sways,  
But golden honor courts the pole-star's light,  
Loyal, though hidden by the clouds of night,  
By land or sea her truthful magnet turns  
To tell the altar where its incense burns.

---

Time marshals onward,—with the fading  
years,  
We leave their treasures and decorous tears;  
List to the words of sympathy or praise,  
They're but the memories of by-gone days;  
Hark to the music surging on the blast,  
'Tis but the Present singing of the Past.

Come, while the air is resonant with song,  
And kindest echoes roll its notes along,  
And view some portraits which adorn the  
room  
Where glory's torch dispels impending gloom.

Honor to him who, in her natal day  
Imperial China clothed with sovereign sway,  
Whom nations heard and high approval made  
Of bounteous scheme in courtly speech conveyed,



Near to whose shroud unwary travelers tread,  
While slumbers, unproclaimed, the illustrious  
dead.

Honor to him who uncorrupted stood,  
War's minister, to guard his country's good,  
Who always lifted, 'bove the roar of strife,  
His voice prophetic of her radiant life.

Honor to him who speaks from yonder wreck,  
"This is my place,"—on the *Oneida's* deck.

The memories of men like these, belong  
To the grand harmony of epic song;  
For them nasturtiums wave, and amaranths  
bloom,  
And cedars garrison, and on every tomb  
Columbia plants the insignia of renown—  
Her laurel flower that ranks the golden crown.

---

Though we press onward through the halls  
of Time  
And note this picture chaste and this sublime,  
Landscapes so like to those our youth has  
known  
We seek the shade-trees as we sought our  
own;



Articulate faces of the friends we loved,  
By worth ennobled and by truth approved;  
Yet for brief space we stay at duty's call,  
To view one likeness on our draperied wall.

My brothers, but two little years have flown,  
Since we all hearkened to the voice of one,  
Who ne'er again shall tread your armory  
    floor,  
Whose sweet weird melody shall charm no  
    more.

He was a gentleman, — so kind, so true,  
His friends were lovers and admirers too;  
His the right royal greeting; he could teach  
The heart's surrender unto silver speech.  
We knew his high emprise, his timorous  
    vein,  
And that his bright escutcheon bore no  
    stain.

O, busy world that meddlest, but knows  
    naught  
Of mystic promptings by ambition taught,  
Hushed be the discord of your sad refrain,  
Cheap is your judgment on a soul in pain.



But *you* will ever on these festive days  
Crown Rodman's memory with the poet's bays,  
Will speak him fairly, and with solemn pride  
Say that your comrade fell when Rodman died.

---

Full many a soldier's grave, his green retreat,  
The sacred Mecca's sought by Christian feet,  
Will wear ere long the gems which loyal love  
Shall heedful cull from garden, copse, or  
grove.

Bright belles of beauty, who have fairly won  
The admiring homage of the gay *salon*,  
Who move in dazzling robes of fashion's hour,  
Or poise the wand of intellectual power,  
In sweet accord advance, with measured tread,  
To deck with flowers the City of the Dead.

Pale, patient Nera strays apart from these,  
Where lies, embosomed by low whispering  
trees,  
Her soldier-husband.—From their island home,  
Fate, in their youth's bright morning, bade  
them roam.

Few knew his legend. Boots it now to tell,—  
He was her love, her life,—he fought, he fell ;



You who have kindred dear may ill defend  
Your grief 'gainst her's, who had no other  
friend.

What brings she? locust blooms, her widow's  
mite,

Whose leaves are jewels in Jehovah's sight.

Through winding pathways long processions  
move,

Whose emblem banners blazon,—God is love.  
Join, if your wisdom bids, the earnest throng,  
But lend no favor to funereal song:

He who has given his life, no sorrow claims,  
He wrote his title 'mong immortal names.

Life is the lord of death, forever lord,  
Despite the plague, the famine, and the sword.  
But that the true shall breathe in heavenly  
air,

God's faith and hope would never beckon  
there ;

The flowers of earth, Elysian breezes wave,  
Ye do but furnish resurrection's grave.

Our day is night, but night is halcyon day  
To him who liveth in God's smile away ;



Truth were a meteor, could her mission die;  
Love's arrows fall that do not pierce the  
sky.

---

To your own music in the choral song,  
This simple carol of my grateful tongue  
Yields willing place, while yet the day is  
bright,

To be forgotten 'mong the scenes of night,  
Where feet poetic move to faster time  
Than those which tread the labyrinth of  
rhyme.

Yet ere we go, an answer let me make  
To one set stigma, for Rhode Island's sake.

We who were born beneath her favored star,  
Can see none brighter in the fields afar;  
And if some foeman worthy of our steel,  
Dares to assault the majesty we feel,  
We meet him quickly on the field he names,  
And this the battle that we give his claims.

'Tis not unusual for our sister State,  
To gauge her stock of wisdom increate,  
By landed interest which her borders hem,  
From Hudson's hills to Erie's diadem.



This boastful area precedence, in miles,  
Excites our wonder and provokes our smiles;  
She calls us *little*, inasmuch as we  
Are domiciled in smaller territory.

Has she *owned* Beecher since the world begun?

And breeds she giants, save the Cardiff one?  
Is her metropolis, of law, the seat?  
Is Albany's Pantheon pressed by Virtue's  
feet?

And does she never pencil H. O. N.  
Before the names of most *dishonored* men?

The changing opal and the filmy pearl,  
May suit the fortunes of pretentious Earl,  
But the white diamond, though of lesser size,  
Remains the cynosure of kingly eyes.

Was Greene recipient of war's noblest meed?  
For white-armed Justice did a Burgess plead?  
Does civic, martial life linked honors give?  
Has Dyer governed, and does Burnside live?

I must not stay, at the long line appalled,  
To hear your plaudits as the roll is called,



With Roger Williams foremost in the van,  
Adown three centuries march the chieftains'  
clan.

Acres make *provinces*, — MEN make a *State*, —  
Rhode Island *little*, tell me what is *great*.

---

Honor and Duty, thus my song began,  
And in their channels has its measure ran;  
They were the words you cherished in the  
past,

Your earliest lesson,—let them be the last.  
When the half century's register you turn  
Those leaves of gold which Omar cannot burn,  
Think that the history which you make to-  
day

Shall join that record ne'er to fade away:  
Know that the friendships disciplined of yore  
While rolls the wave on Narragansett's shore  
Shall be eternal. Is not yours a part  
Of the pure blood that fills the nation's heart?

So when the ages shall have passed away,  
Some Arnold gazing on that gleaming bay,  
Will make recital of its lofty fame,  
Will speak of warriors who wore its name,



Will tell the story of your soldier youth,—  
“ These were the men who upheld Rhode  
Island’s truth;  
Their sense of duty bade them serve the State,  
Their love of honor made them truly great,  
They to the last maintained their martial  
pride,  
They lived as brothers, and as brothers died.”



At the close of the Poem, the following Resolutions were offered by Captain Dyer, of Company A, and were unanimously adopted :—

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the First Light Infantry Veteran Association are hereby tendered to Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Staples and Private G. W. Pettes, the Orator and Poet of this the first Anniversary celebration, for the very interesting and valuable historical address, and most acceptable poem, by them delivered.

*Resolved*, That copies of each, with the appropriate Prayer of the Chaplain, and of the spirited Original Hymn by Henry C. Whitaker, Esq., be solicited for publication, and that the Committee on Organization be requested to receive, take charge of, and publish the same with such matter connected with this Anniversary celebration and the Organization as they may think proper.

---

The following Original Hymn, by HENRY C. WHITAKER, Esq., was then sung by almost the entire audience, accompanied by the American Band, to the tune of "Dennis" :—

SING to the Lord, Most High,  
Lift up a cheerful voice,



He rules the earth, the sea, and sky,  
Let all the lands rejoice.

By Him the people stand,  
And nations draw their breath ;  
He holds us in his mighty hand,  
And saves our souls from death.

When from the distant shore  
Our fathers crossed the wave,  
Her freight secure the good ship bore,  
Nor feared a watery grave.

When in the forest drear  
Our founder fared in grief,  
The red man's friendly cry, "What Cheer?"  
Gave welcome and relief.

On Bunker's sacred height,  
On Lexington's red field,  
The sword of Gideon was our might,  
The pious trust our shield.

So in the latter day,  
When dangers pressed around,  
The Lord's right-arm was still our stay,  
His help, our solid ground.

Then bless his holy name,  
Whose promises endure  
From sire to son, alway the same,  
Forever strong and sure.



If pleasure crowns the hour,  
Or sorrows fill our days,  
Our tongues shall speak his love and power,  
And still exalt his praise.

Benediction was then pronounced by the Chaplain, and the Battalion was dismissed to meet at Howard Hall at eight o'clock, where a grand Promenade Concert was given, the music being furnished by the American Band.

The Hall adjoining was opened for refreshments at ten o'clock, and the tables were bountifully supplied under the direction of Private Lewis H. Humphrey.

During the evening, an exhibition drill of the Infantry Cadets was given, and much credit is due them for their proficiency.

Thus closed the First Anniversary of the First Light Infantry Veteran Association; and, notwithstanding the bad weather, passed off apparently to the perfect satisfaction of all.

WILLIAM W. BROWN, }  
JAMES SHAW, JR., } *Committee.*  
HENRY STAPLES, }

PROVIDENCE, R. I., *June*, 1870.

F8349.9034

5748







